

Message Text

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S/S-O : SVALERGA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 247185

EXDIS/JERUSALEM FOR AMBASSADOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, SY, LE, KU, IS

SUBJECT: LEBANON SITUATION

REF: KUWAIT 5297

1. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE CROWN PRINCE SAAD WITH A SUMMARY OF THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND ASSAD ON LEBANON (DAMASCUS 5655). IN DOING SO, YOU SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT BEIRUT 5606 REPEATED TO YOU SEPARATELY AND ALSO BEAR IN MIND THAT THE DAMASCUS MEMCON IS STILL UNCLEARED.

2. CONSEQUENTLY, WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD OMIT PARA. 13 OF DAMASCUS REFTTEL IN WHICH THE SECRETARY IS REPORTED AS SAYING
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HE WILL BE GLAD TO HELP IN REALIZING ASSAD'S OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN PARA. 12. THE RECOLLECTION OF ONE OTHER PARTICIPANT IN THAT MEETING WAS THAT THE SECRETARY GAVE GENERAL PHILOSOPHICAL SUPPORT TO THE NEED FOR CHANGES BUT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY ENDORSE THE CONCEPT OF REBUILDING A NEW ARMY FROM SCRATCH. WE DO NOT WANT TO GO ON RECORD IN KUWAIT AS FAVORING THAT CONCEPT, ALTHOUGH A NATIONAL

POLITICAL CONSENSUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MAJOR U.S. OBJECTIVE.

3. PLEASE OMIT MENTION OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO ASSAD IN PARA. 1. OMIT MENTION OF ASSAD'S STATEMENT THAT THE MILITIA MUST BE "CLEANSED." OUR REASON IS THAT THE

KUWAITIS MIGHT GAIN THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT WE MIGHT ALSO ACCEPT THE NECESSITY OF "CLEANSING THE MILITIAS" WHEN THE FACT IS THAT WE BELIEVE THAT ANY ALL-OUT SYRIAN EFFORT TO DESTROY THE MILITARY POWER OF THE MILITIAS ONCE AND FOR ALL COULD TOO EASILY BRING ABOUT ISRAELI MILITARY INTERVENTION.

4. PLEASE ALSO OMIT REFERENCES TO THE FACT THAT AMBASSADOR PARKER VISITS CAMILLE CHAMOUN. ASSAD'S COMPLETELY ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION OF AMBASSADOR PARKER'S ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN ANY CREDIBILITY BY OUR MENTION OF IT ELSEWHERE, EVEN THOUGH THE SECRETARY MADE THE POINT CLEARLY THAT PARKER WAS MAKING THESE CONTACTS IN ORDER TO PRESS FOR AN END TO THE RESISTANCE AND TO COOPERATE WITH THE SARKIS GOVERNMENT.

5. UNLESS ROY AHERTON MENTIONED IN KUWAIT THE ISRAELI REQUEST TO SEND U.S. ARMS TO THE MARONITES, YOU SHOULD OMIT THIS ALSO FROM YOUR PRESENTATIONS (SEE PARA. 7 OF DAMASCUS 5655). CHRISTOPHER

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